

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00276 232024Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
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R 231509Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4093
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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MEXICO FOR RFA,

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS PLOS NS US
SUBJ: SURINAM-US SHRIMP FISHING RELATIONS

REF: STATE 35723

1. IN GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTRY
DIRECTOR LIONARONS FEBRUARY 23, CHARGE INQUIRED ABOUT GOS
PLANS FOR TRANSIT RIGHTS FOR BOATS PASSING THROUGH SURINAM'S
200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. LIONARONS SAID HE COULD WELL
UNDERSTAND PROBLEM SHRIMP TRAWLERS WOULD HAVE STOWING FISHING
GEAR AND THROUGHT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE SO THAT DISCON-
NECTING AND STOWING OF NETS ON DECK WOULD BE ACCEPTED AS
EVIDENCE OF INNOCENT PASSAGE.
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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00276 232024Z

2. LIONARONS COULD NOT SAY WHETHER SHRIMP RESOURCES OFF
SURINAM WOULD PERMIT ISSUANCE OF FISHING LICENSES TO
BOATS OPERATING FROM OUTSIDE SURINAM. HE IS STILL
IN THE PROCESS OF ESTIMATING THE EXTENT OF THE RESOURCE
AND HOPES TO USE DATA GATHERED BY PREVIOUS US RESEARCH
EFFORTS INCLUDING THAT CONDUCTED BY NMFS EXPERT DRAGOVICH.

LIONARONS REITERATED THAT LICENSE FEES WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RECIPROCAL TREATMENT OFFERED BY SURINAM'S NEIGHBORS, POINTING OUT AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY THAT SINCE SURINAM-BASED BOATS FACE VERY HIGH FEES IN GUYANA, BOATS BASED IN GUYANA COULD NOT EXPECT TO FISH IN SURINAM WATERS FOR "FREE."

3. SURINAM'S 200-MILE LAW, ACCORDING TO LIONARONS, IS STILL WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FOR A LEGAL OPINION REGARDING ITS CONSTITUTIONALITY PRIOR TO ITS BEING SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT. RECENT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS INDICATE THAT PROMULGATION OF THE LAW WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER PRIME MINISTER ARRON DELIVERS THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICY DECLARATION NOW EXPECTED SOMETIME IN MARCH.

4. REGARDING INDUSTRY PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DELEGATION BRING WITH IT ALL RELEVANT DATA ON SHRIMP RESOURCE OFF THE GUIANAS WHICH PRESENTLY EXISTS. SURINAM OFFICIALS WILL BE INTERESTED IN THIS INFORMATION IN THEIR DETERMINATION OF ALLOWABLE FISHING IN SURINAM WATERS AND ALSO AS A DEPARTURE POINT FOR CONSIDERING WHAT ADDITIONAL RESEARCH IS NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE. WE WILL AWAIT FURTHER WORD ON EXACT DATES OF DELEGATION'S VISIT TO PARAMARIBO BEFORE SCHEDULING ANY FORMAL MEETINGS HERE. PLEASE ADVISE. ASAP.

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PAGE 03 PARAMA 00276 232024Z

LORTON

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